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LB 407

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Was the Governor the driving force behind its happening?

SENATOR BURLING: It would seem to me he was, even though later on we had the facility used with INS.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. But that is not a state function; that is connected with the federal government.

SENATOR BURLING: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all that I will ask you. Thank you.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, the idea of closing a facility is not new. And it was not done by the Legislature. And the Legislature did not override that decision. Regardless of what has been said thus far, no compelling reason has been given for us to change the decision that we made last night. What kind of Legislature is it which, after extensive debate, makes a decision on a serious issue, then, because two or three Senators are opposed to it, and the Governor goes to the media and says he'll veto the whole budget, we should therefore change our decision? Well, maybe we could look at it this way. Let's say it's a war of wills between myself, meaning Senator Chambers, and Governor Johanns. He says he'll veto the whole budget bill, perhaps, if this is in it. Maybe I can avoid doing that by saying, if it's not in it, I can help prevent a budget bill from passing. And then we will be here in a special session. We will all start over together. But there is nothing to say that if he vetoed an entire budget bill that there would not be 30 votes to override his veto. And for him to make that kind of threat over an issue like this is irresponsible, when he gave what he called his rationale. The Appropriations Committee has not stifled any debate. Without any participation from me, you all discussed an alternative to the budget, much of which the Governor approved of, endlessly yesterday. Went on and on and on. No debate was stifled. Senator Erdman's, whose proposal it was, I believe he's the one who stood up and said both of his arms are still healthy,